

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday, August 20, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Members present were: J. Groothuis, J. Hicks, K. Pritchard, B. Zoldos and W. Wolf. Absent was: E. Hower and R. Peterson. Staff members present were Jay Banks.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Wolf made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2001 with no changes.

Motion: Wolf

Second: Hicks

Carried: 5-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carol Evans (Virginia Dept. of Forestry) stated that there are more calls coming in from homeowners about damaged trees because of development. There are also concerned citizens about water quality.

Julie Overman stated that she got the impression that the Balch Library did not want the trees, she had a meeting with Library Manager, Jane Sullivan, but Jane never said that she wanted the trees. Commissioner Wolf stated that he had been e-mailing Jane, and that she asked him to discuss the trees with the Library Commission on September 7<sup>th</sup>, so the Balch Library may still want the trees.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Wolf stated that for a one-day session with St. Clair Tyler it would be \$900.00 plus mileage and hotel expenses. Commissioner Zoldos suggested that Commissioner Wolf should give his neighbor Andy Gersher a call to see if he could do the retreat. He might even consider doing it for free.

Commissioner Pritchard wanted to make a motion to order a canopy for the Flower & Garden and for the Day in the Park events.

Motion: Pritchard

Second: Hicks

Carried: 5-0

Commissioner Hicks wanted to make a motion to have the Leip Committee do a presentation for the Tree Commission at the September meeting.

Motion: Hicks

Second: Wolf

Carried: 5-0

Commissioner Hicks stated that A Day in the Park is to tell the citizens hey here we are, Ida Lee Park is your park, and there will also be booth's for all the Commission to hand out pamphlets. Commissioner Groothuis stated that he would like to attend, but is not sure of his schedule, so it will be tabled until they decided who can attend.

Commissioner Zoldos stated that he got this thing in the mail called Senic America, which is conservation planning along Rt. 15 from Gettysburg to Charlottesville. They offer a limited number of free senic conservation publications; one that would be applicable to the Tree Commission would be From Sprawl to Smart Growth How to Achieve Beautiful Results, it says that one of the problems with sprawling development is that it is ugly, car-clogged asphalt, face less cookie cutter architecture, and tree less housing developments rob places of there scenic beauty and distinctive character. Visual quality is a basic building block for healthy environments and productive communities; we take pride in where we live. Commissioner Zoldos made a motion to order 100 copies of each brochure.

Motion: Zoldos  
Second: Pritchard  
Carried: 5-0

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Hicks stated that he attended the EAC meeting on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> while he was there they made the announcement that John Johnston got the job in Planning. They did a follow up on the team building session. They also talked about the Loudoun County Street Monetary program; this is the elite group that we were going to invite to speak to the Tree Commission about tree coverage. Then they spoke about the brochures that they offers, and the power plant.

Commissioner Pritchard wanted to talk about the tree coverage for the bike trail along Rt. 15 by Ida Lee Park. She was told that trees could not be planted due to easements and utility lines on the sides of the trail. Commissioner Pritchard wanted to ask Mr. Banks if he could pull the plans for the trail to see if it is possible to plant some trees along the trail.

Commissioner Groothuis stated that he has noticed that in the Exeter neighborhood that the residence are getting rid of the soft maple trees because they are getting to the size that when we have a wind storm they lose part of the tree and instead of pruning the tree they are just taking the whole tree down, and we are losing a canopy coverage in that neighborhood. Commissioner Groothuis wanted to ask Mr. Banks if the trees were still considered a viable tree for builders to plant? Mr. Banks stated no the trees are not considered viable for builders to plant.

There being no further business, the Tree Commission adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

---

Jay Banks, Urban Forester

---

Jennifer Smith, Recording Secretary